

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD,
LOS ANGELES REGION

ORDER NO. 98-089
TIME SCHEDULE ORDER
FOR
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Malibu Water Pollution Control Plant
(File No. 64-049)

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board), finds:

1. The County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works (hereinafter Discharger or County) owns and operates the Malibu Water Pollution Control Plant (Plant), located at 3260 Vista Pacifica Street, Malibu, California.). This Plant treats domestic wastewaters from an estimated population of 400 people residing in three condominium complexes in Winter Canyon:
 - Maison DeVille Homeowners Association, a 48-unit complex located at 23902 to 23926 Deville Way;
 - Malibu Canyon Village Homeowners Association, a 104-unit complex located at 23901 Civic Center Way; and
 - Vista Pacifica Homeowners Association, a 17-unit complex located at 3601 Vista Pacifica Street.

Domestic wastewaters from these condominium complexes are collected through a system of 1,713 feet of sanitary sewers. Mainline sewers are owned by the City of Malibu (City) and are maintained by the Los Angeles County Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District.
2. In 1965, when the Plant was constructed, it was the County's intention that the Plant would serve as a temporary facility only, providing wastewater collection and treatment facilities to these condominiums until such time that a regional wastewater services became available. To date, regional wastewater services have not become available.
3. The Discharger's Plant produces a secondary-level wastewater for discharge to ground water through a seepage pit disposal system, under requirements specified in Order No. 98-088, adopted by this Regional Board on November 2, 1998. The Plant is not currently capable of disinfecting wastewater discharged to the seepage pits, as required by Order No. 98-088. Furthermore, the Plant may not be capable of meeting all other requirements in Order No. 98-088, until completion of repairs and upgrades.

November 2, 1998

4. Major repairs are needed at the Plant, which is 33 years old. As documented in a Facilities Improvement Project Report,¹ problems include corrosion of tankage and equipment, degradation of old equipment due to a lack of spare parts, and a lack of redundancy to allow for periodic maintenance.
5. Order No. 98-088 includes requirements, among others, stipulating the following.

- a) "The maximum daily flow of influent from the collection system to the headworks of the Plant shall not exceed 37,500 gpd, and the daily flow of influent (calculated on a weekly average) at the headworks of the Plant shall not exceed 76% of the design capacity of 37,500 gpd. This flow limitation also applies to treated effluent discharged to the seepage pit disposal system.

Should the Discharger undertake the proposed Plant expansion, this influent limitation shall increase up to 45,000 gpd for maximum daily flow; provided that the Discharger has filed a report of material change, subject to the approval of the Regional Board's Executive Officer, demonstrating that an expansion of the Plant's capacity will comply with all requirements of this Order, and that the projected daily flow into the Plant (calculated on a weekly average) will not exceed 75% of the maximum design flow."

- b) "Until the Discharger upgrades the Plant with the installation of disinfection equipment, the seepage pit disposal system shall not extend to within 5 feet of the historic or anticipated high level of the water table. Upon installation of disinfection equipment and compliance with fecal coliform requirements in this Order, as well as compliance with all other requirements in this Order, the Discharger will not need to comply with this requirement for a minimum vertical separation between the seepage pit disposal system and the water table."

The Discharger is not currently in compliance with these requirements.

6. Regarding violation of limits on the influent flow at the headworks of the Plant, the Discharger believes that such violations are due to illegal connections of storm drains into sewers, and has attempted to work with the City of Malibu to correct this problem.
7. Regarding violations of the 5-foot vertical separation requirement, the Discharger has attempted to take corrective action by raising the bottom of some seepage pits; however, due to heavy rains during the 1997/98 wet season and a high water table in this portion of Winter Canyon, violation of the requirement for minimum vertical separation continues.

¹ Prepared by CH2M/Hill, for the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, February 20, 1995.

8. Pursuant to section 13267(b) of the California Water Code, the Regional Board issued a directive on August 21, 1998 to the County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, requiring the County to participate in a technical investigation of water quality impacts from discharges of wastewaters from County facilities in the Malibu Valley area. The focus of this investigation will be on water quality impairments from pathogens along the Malibu coast and from pathogens and nutrient loads into Malibu Lagoon. The County has acknowledged this directive, and stated its intent to cooperate with the Regional Board and other participants in the technical investigation, to the extent that the County bears responsibility for discharges from septic systems from County-owned facilities.²

Additionally, the Regional Board is in the process of issuing similar directives to other dischargers of wastewaters in the Malibu Valley area. The Regional Board expects that the City of Malibu, as the community leader, will lead efforts to develop and implement the technical investigation, and that the County and all other dischargers will coordinate their efforts.

9. This enforcement action is being taken for the protection of health and the human environment and, as such, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 2100 et seq.), in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15301.

The Regional Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent

Should the corrective action above not be sufficient to bring influent flow flows into full compliance, the Discharger shall undertake a technical investigation, including an inflow/infiltration study, to determine what other corrective actions are needed, including expansion of the Plant's design capacity to process existing levels of average and peak flows. A report on the technical investigation, with recommendations for corrective action, shall be due by April 1, 1999.

- B. Repairs and Upgrade: The Discharger shall complete repairs which shall include, at a minimum, those repairs identified in the Facilities Improvement Project Report, Table ES-1 (all priorities).³ Furthermore, the Discharger shall complete an upgrade to the treatment process at the Plant, by adding disinfection equipment that will meet the fecal coliform limit of 200 MPN/100mL before discharge of the effluent to the seepage pit disposal system. All repairs and upgrades will be completed according to the following schedule:

August 1, 1999	Complete final design of Plant, and submit a complete loan application for SRF funding to the State Water Resources Control Board.
November 1, 1999	Complete pre-construction arrangements (bid and award), and start construction.
May 1, 2000	Complete construction.
June 1, 2000	Complete Plant start-up, including testing, and achieve full compliance with all requirements in Order No. 98-088.

In the event that California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements or State Revolving Fund loan processing requirements delay construction start-up, the Executive Officer may, at his discretion, extend the time schedule to achieve full compliance with these requirements

- C. Compliance Reporting: The Discharger shall submit quarterly and annual progress reports for the requirements outlined in paragraphs A and B above as part of the reports of self-monitoring required under Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 6473.

Should the County of Los Angeles fail to comply with any provision of this Order, the Executive Officer is authorized to request the Attorney General to take appropriate action against the County, including injunction and civil monetary remedies, pursuant to appropriate California Water Code sections, including but not limited to, Sections 13331, 13350, 13385 and 13386.

³ Prepared by CH2M/Hill, for the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, February 20, 1995.

I, Dennis A. Dickerson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, on November 2, 1998.

DENNIS A. DICKERSON
Executive Officer